CURIOUS DISCOVERY AT GLOUCESTER.—In forming a cutting for the Great Western Railway to Gloucester, close to the city, the men have exposed to view a portion of what was probably a Roman water duct. It consists of a concreted mass, formed of pounded red brick and lime, 5 feet or 6 feet high, and 4 feet wide, hollowed out at the top into a deep channel. A length of about 20 feet is exposed.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.—Amongst the imports into Britain and Ireland during the month ended 5th July last, were 1,523 tons of mahogany, 5,965 tons of copper ore, 2,607 cwt. of unwrought copper, 2,784 tons of bar-iron; and among the exports were glass to the value of 20,210*l.*; machinery, 93,374*l.*; metals, 638,467*l.* The gross total value of the exports during the last six months amounted to 21,571,939*l.* against 25,394,243*l.* in 1847, and 25,020,972*l.* in 1846.

PRESENT STATE OF ROME.*—The bulk of the inhabitants dwell in the space between the Corso and Old Tiber, and are closely packed,—a few in fine palaces, the many in cheerless, shabby dwellings. A third street, running from the same starting point in a south-easterly direction, leads to the Piazza di Spagna, where another fountain cools the air, and the huge building called the Propaganda blocks up all further view; but the traveller will meet other fountains, and massive palaces, and churches, and piazze, interspersed with venerable ruins. Whithersoever he turns his eager steps, he is alternately delighted and disgusted; the majestic remains of a great antiquity he wishes to examine with critical accuracy, but he stands in the midst of inconceivable filth. He turns to the churches, sacred in the eyes of Christians, but often not safe from defilement in the City of Churches. He finds in his guide-book, and notes on the map, numerous piazze, which he imagines to be fine squares, clean, if not splendid; he observes, with some few exceptions, they resemble waste ground, reserved for rubbish or the refuse of a great city. Persevering in his walk through Rome, he finds himself more severely fagged in one hour than he would have been in London in three; for the streets are generally narrow and gloomy, seldom clean, the pavement sharp and broken, there being no flagging, with the exception of the Corso, where it is three feet broad, and of so ragged a material that little knobs of stone rise up in the flags, and almost penetrate the stoutest boot. Following the map to gain an object of interest, he turns into narrow bye-streets and lanes, and then learns, through the medium of his senses, what amount of filth can be endured by human nature. * * * A principal source of business is the imitating in bronze the classic monuments, and at every corner is an artist's studio. He remarks no substantial houses building for a respectable middle-class, but several old ones plastered with white cement to attract tenants in the English quarter; fifty dwellings are inspected before he meets one congenial to his English taste; for if an invalid, he wants sunshine, and does not want malaria. He desires wholesome air and spacious apartments, with a good look-out; yet he finds several excellent apartments, but looking into a yard or court everlastingly covered with wet or filth. He thus learns there never was a real, opulent middle-class in Modern Rome, and that cardinals and bishops carry it, even with their fine palaces, make a flourishing city.† But still does he ever find, to his inexpressible delight, that into no quarter of the once Imperial City, no palace, no church, or building, or studio, can he put his head without meeting with some object of interest and art, novel to his eyes, beautiful or wonderful. He forgets all inconveniences, forgives the Government and the Pope, and rejoices in his visit to the Eternal City.

* From "Italy in the Nineteenth Century, contrasted with its past Condition."

† "Modern Rome occupies a triangular space, each side of which is nearly two miles long. The greater part of the city lies low, about 40 feet above the level of the sea, although but sixteen miles distant from it. The Tiber, where it enters Rome is but 20 feet above the sea. The city is divided into

84 parishes and 300 churches,
154 churches served by secular clergy,
130 churches served by regular clergy (monks),
64 monasteries and convents for men,
50 monasteries and convents for women.

It has some 500 streets, 270 lanes, 140 palaces, 5,000 shops, and 340 noblemen's houses, of which 60 might be considered palaces."

SHOP-FRONTS. — Several correspondents, acknowledging the truth of some observations in a recent number of our journal, on the want of novelty in shop-fronts, say they have been "to many builders, but none of them can suggest anything new." We recommend our correspondents to go to an architect first in such cases, and the builders afterwards. If they employ an able architect, and express a willingness to pay him fairly for his trouble, they may be more successful.

TENDERS

For the erection of schools and master's house, at Strood, near Rochester; Mr. M. Bulwer, architect, Maidstone:—

Saunders and Colegate	£1,194 10 0
Robins	1,020 12 0
Oamer and Betts	1,063 18 0
Clements	996 0 0
Barnett	901 10 0
Thompson	861 0 0
Goodwin	839 9 0

For the erection of schools and master's house, to be built at Bull's Cross, Enfield, for the promoters of the new schools, &c., in the district of Jesus Chapel, Enfield:—

Thos. and Wm. Piper	£944 0 0
George Mansfield and Son	858 0 0
Draper (Enfield	827 16 0

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*Fire Escape.*"—In reply to a correspondent from Windsor, we may mention that the operations of the fire-escape, similar to those performed at the London Gas-works, will be repeated next Monday morning, 28th inst., at Eleven o'clock, opposite the Southampton Arms, near Mornington-crescent, Camden Town, Hampstead-road.

"*Subscriber.*"—If working drawings from an architect shew clearly an intention to depart from the specification, they may fairly be considered as *written orders* for extra work.

"*P.*"—Extraordinary works should obtain extraordinary remuneration: 5 per cent. will not pay for such as are described.

"*A. A.*"—If the Government were to take such a step they would draw upon themselves the reprobation of every thinking man. It is not likely.

"*A Young Carver.*"—A Stone Carver's Society has been established to obtain drawings, &c., for reference. We will inquire into its constitution. In Brandon's "Analysis of Gothic Architecture," if not beyond our correspondent's means, he would find many examples. Loose prints may be found at Evans's, corner of Little Queen-street and Great Queen-street, Holborn.

"*Blind Builders.*"—Mr. W. Ellison, of Poplar, asks us to state that it was not he who tendered for repair of St. George's Church, mentioned under this head on the 12th.

"*F. H. W.*"—The bridge shall be mentioned. The account scarcely makes the principle clear.

"*H. C. T.*"—Key-stones were not used by the mediæval architects in pointed arches, but universally so in groined vaultings.

"*J. C.*"—Write to the *Gardener's Chronicle.*

"*W. H.*"—R. T. has not reached us.

"*A Subscriber.*"—"Pyne's Practical Rules in Drawing," are published in the work on "Carpentry," seventeen parts of which (*i.e.* the Carpentry), have been issued by Weale. Twenty completes the work.

Received.—"J. S." (shall be remembered); "Sir J. W. S. G." (see in paper); "E. J. W." (Jedburgh is in Scotland); "C. E. D." (the drawing shall be returned); "P. R. M." (we shall be happy to receive the observations); "W. F. P." "P. S." (declined with thanks); "R. J. W." "A. A." (thanks); "B. M. P." "C. D." "J. A. P." (we shall be glad to receive notices); "W. L. W." "E. G. M." "The Treasury of Natural History, or a Popular History of Animated Nature, by Samuel Maunder." (Longman and Co.); "Report and Supplement on supply of Surplus Water to Manchester, &c.," by S. E. Homersham, C.E. (Weale); "Causes of the Explosion of Steam-Engine Boilers explained," by W. Stewart, C.E. (Longman and Co.)

Notice.—It is out of our power to comply with the numerous demands of correspondents for recipes for making and doing every thing under the sun.

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Horticultural, 21 oz. ditto	ditto	4*d.*	"
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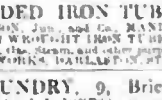

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